

Application No. 10/418,683
Amendment Dated December 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 14, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-25 (Cancelled)

Claim 26 (Currently Amended) A method of joining any two tools having housings and rotatable elements inside the housings together at various adjustable angles and simultaneously transferring torque through at least one of the tools, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing each tool housing with a respective mating interlock configuration in the vicinity of one of the rotatable elements by forming a series of identical lugs spaced apart by gaps and fixed directly on each tool housing encircling and projecting beyond an end of the respective rotatable element in the respective housing;
- b) engaging the interlock configuration on each tool housing so that the tool housings are interlocked together with the rotatable elements in the housings aligned and the lugs on one tool housing received in the gaps between the lugs on the other tool housing;
- c) passing a torque transmitting element through at least one of the aligned rotatable elements inside the housings; and
- d) engaging a retaining element with the torque transmitting element to continuously secure the interlocked tool housings together at a selected adjustable angle to form a rotary torque transmitting joint, with only the rotatable elements in the housings, the torque transmitting element and the retaining element forming a combined torque transmitting and coupling function.

Claims 27-37 (Cancelled).

Claim 38 (Withdrawn) A method of joining at least two tools having housings and rotatable elements together at adjustable angles, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing one tool with a male rotatable element;
- b) providing the other tool with a female rotatable element engageable with the male rotatable element;
- c) providing each tool housing with a respective universally engageable mating interlock configuration in the vicinity of one of the rotatable elements;
- d) engaging the universally engageable interlock configuration on each tool housing so that the tool housings are interlocked together with the rotatable elements aligned and engaged; and
- e) providing a retaining element to secure the interlocked tools together to form a rotary torque transmitting joint.

Claim 39 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of providing each tool housing with a respective universally engageable mating interlock configuration includes the step of forming a series of identical, spaced lugs on each tool housing encircling and projecting beyond an end of the respective rotatable element.

Claim 40 (Withdrawn) A method of joining at least two tools having housings and rotatable elements together at instantly adjustable angles, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) positioning the tools so that the rotatable elements are aligned;
- b) passing a torque transmitting element through at least one of the aligned rotatable elements; and
- c) providing a retaining element engageable with the torque transmitting element to secure the tool housings together to form a rotary torque transmitting joint, with the rotatable elements providing a torque transmitting and coupling function.

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Claim 41 (Withdrawn) A method of joint at least two tools having housings and rotatable elements together at instantly adjustable angles, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing one tool with a male rotatable element;
- b) providing the other tool with a female rotatable element engageable with the male rotatable element;
- c) engaging the male and female rotatable elements together; and
- d) providing a retaining element to secure the joined tools together to form a rotary torque transmitting joint.